

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

Weight Clerk's Office,

April 21. 1896.

Hon. Herman Kretz,

Superintendent:

Sir:-

Referring to the inquiry in letter of Director of the Mint of the 20th inst., relative to statement of "refined gold bullion received at this Mint from El Paso Smelting Company of Colorado, during calendar year 1895, I have the honor to say:

That the deposits made by the El Paso Reduction Co. or by its agents, at this Mint, have never been received as "refined" gold, but in all cases have been put through a refinery, and charges imposed accordingly. Much of this bullion is very base, the loss incurred by melting bars of 100 ounces and upward having sometime reached twenty ounces, and even more. In one or more cases the appearance of El Paso Reduction Co. bullion was so unfavorable that the agent of the Company in

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Apr. 21

RG104 E-1 Box 193

was called in to examine the bullion before melting, as the loss would probably be heavy. In another case an entire day was given to the melting of a deposit, a refining flux having been used.

In a general way, and to further show the "unrefined" nature of the El Paso Reduction Co's bullion, I have to state that of the twenty-one deposits first received, aggregating no less than 2376 ounces, the loss in Melting was 165 ounces - a loss that no refined bullion could have sustained. I may also state that of these twenty-one deposits, none reached a fineness above .980, and some fell so low as .835. And the base metals were iron and lead. I will thank you to secure a specific classification of refined bullion from the Department for my future guidance.

The uniform practice here has been to class as refined bullion only such as need not go to the refinery, or bullion fit for coinage. This rule will explain the discrepancy noted in the letter of the Director. Refined bullion should not show any considerable loss in Melting, and to report bullion too base for coinage as "refined" may lead

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to confirm hereafter in making up my statements.

I have the honor to report that the deposits from
the El Paso Red Co. for the Calendar year 1895 were
8552.232 ounces standard.

Very Respectfully

John J. Jones
Wright Clark

Rec'd April 22nd 1896
Post Office U.S. Mail Philadelphia Pa.

Subject: **1009**

O. S. Jones' explanation
of Gold Bullion from El Paso Smelting
Company of Colorado, giving the
number of ounces, Standard,

[Abstract:] O.Z. Jones' explanation of gold bullion from El Paso Smelting Company of Colorado, giving the number of ounces, standard.

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Weigh Clerk's Office,
April 21, 1896

Hon. Herman Kretz
Superintendent:

Sir: -

Referring to the inquiry in letter of Director of the Mint of the 20th inst., relative to statement of "refined gold bullion" received at this Mint from El Paso Smelting Company of Colorado, during calendar year 1895, I have the honor to say:

That the deposits made by the El Paso Reduction Co., only its agents, at this Mint, have never been received as "refined" gold, but in all cases have been put through our refinery, and charges imposed accordingly. Much of this bullion is very base, the loss incurred by melting bars of 100 ounces and upward having sometimes reached twenty ounces, and even more. In one or more cases the appearance of El Paso Reduction Co.'s bullion was so unfavorable that the agent of the Company in was called in to examine the bullion before melting, as the loss would probably be heavy. In another case an entire day was given to the melting of a deposit, a refinery flux having been used.

In a general way, and to further show the "unrefined" nature of the El Paso Reduction Co.'s bullion, I have to state that the twenty-one deposits first received, aggregating no less than 2376 ounces the loss in melting was 165 ounces – a loss that no refined bullion could have sustained. I may also state that of those twenty-one deposits none reached a fineness above .980, and some fell so low as .835. And the base metals were iron and lead. I will thank you to secure a specific classification of refined bullion from the Department for my future guidance.

The uniform practice here, has been to class as repaired bullion only such as need not go to the refinery, or bullion fit for coinage. This rule will explain the discrepancy noted in the letter of the Director. Refined bullion should not show any considerable loss in melting, and to report bullion too base for coinage as "refined" may lead to confusion hereafter in making up my statements.

I have the honor to report that the deposits from the El Paso Red. Co. for the Calendar year 1895 to be 8552.232 ounces standard.

Very Respectfully,
Owen Z. Jones
Weigh Clerk